

## Ran as a Defund The Police Candidate, Defunded the Police

In his 2020 City Council campaign, Tabatabai has acknowledged running as a “defund” candidate. His actions on the West Covina City Council and his rhetoric confirm this label.

- In June 2021, Tabatabai was the lone vote against the 2021-2022 budget, which included an amendment for the hiring of 10 police officers, 10 part-time code enforcement officers, and 10 maintenance workers. Tabatabai criticized the amendment to the budget and stated:

“It goes against our financial recovery that we sent to the state auditors... It’s again another example of making decisions with the hope that revenue will suddenly appear.” (*Pasadena Star-News*, “City taps reserves for new budget,” June 21, 2021)

In July 2021, Tabatabai reinforced his opposition to the budget, stating:

“In June, in the waning minutes of the budget approval process, the City Council added 30 more public workers to the city’s payroll for fiscal year 2021-22 — adding an estimated \$2.6 million to the previously-decided \$2.3 million deficit... These numbers do not include operating costs for the city’s recently-reopened Sportsplex, let alone for a new public health department,” (*Instagram*, “[mayorprotem tabatabai](#),” July 9, 2021)

(*City of West Covina*, “Meeting Minutes,” June 15, 2021)

**West Covina**

**West Covina still waiting on proposal to create own health department**

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“In June, in the waning minutes of the budget approval process, the City Council added 30 more public workers to the city’s payroll for fiscal year 2021-22 — adding an estimated \$2.6 million to the previously-decided \$2.3 million deficit, Tabatabai said. These numbers do not include operating costs for the city’s recently-reopened Sportsplex, let alone for a new public health department, he added.” @changewestcovina @sangabrielvalleynews @passtarnews @westcovinacity

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- In July 2021, Tabatabai was the lone dissenting vote in a vote of no confidence against Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascon. Tabatabai stated:

“I understand there’s a lot of pain from those who came and spoke on the necessity to recall the D.A... I’ve listened, and I really do feel your need for just punishment. But justice that creates more innocent victims is not justice.”  
(*Pasadena Star-News*, “More cities are angry with Gascon,” July 22, 2021)

The letter opposed three directives from Gascon, the propensity to decline or dismiss several misdemeanor cases, eliminating sentencing options, such as enhancements, and calls to provide greater oversight in how police investigate and resolve cases. The West Covina Police Department had sent 154 misdemeanor cases from January to April 2021, and all were denied being prosecuted. (*Whittier Daily News*, “West Covina City Council delivers letter to DA criticizing 3 moves, urging he rescind them,” June 26, 2021; *City of West Covina*, “Meeting Minutes, July 20, 2021)

- In a December 2020 interview with the UCLA Library Center for Oral History Research, Tabatabai stated that “we ran on defunding the police,” in regard to his city council campaign. His full quote:

“And so, myself, these four young kids, and my cousin, we ran. And we ran on defunding the police, we ran on being intentional with our unsheltered population here in West Covina. I mean, really on a social justice platform. And West Covina is a really conservative city.” (*UCLA Library Center*, “[Oral History with Brian Tabatabai](#),” December 16, 2020)

- In May 2020, Tabatabai changed his Facebook profile picture to protestors outside the burning Minneapolis Police Department following the death of George Floyd. The picture is shown below. (*Facebook*, “Brian Tabatabai,” May 29, 2020; *Toledo Blade*, “[Minneapolis police station torched amid George Floyd protest](#),” May 28, 2020)

